

Memorandum

DEC 3 0 2008

Date:

TO

The Commission

THROUGH:

Todd Stevenson, Secretary

Cheryl Falvey, General Counsel 19 UNF

Patricia Semple, Executive Director

FROM

Colin B. Church

Voluntary Standards Coordinator

SUBJECT:

FY 2008 Voluntary Standards Activities Annual Report

Attached is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff's *Voluntary Standards Activities FY 2008 Annual Report (October 2007 – September 2008)* which is forwarded for your information. If you have any questions, please call Colin Church at 301-504-7245.

ATTACHMENT:

CPSA 6(b)(1) CLEARED for PUBLIC
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PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED

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Voluntary Standards Activities 10/1/07 – 9/30/08

SUMMARY

Twenty four new, revised, or reaffirmed voluntary safety standards, for which the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff monitored or provided technical support, received final approval during the period from 10/1/07 - 9/30/08. These addressed air cleaners, amusement rides (portable), arc-fault circuit interrupters, bassinets, batteries, bed rails, diaper changing tables (residential), cribs (non-full-size/play yards), gasoline containers (three standards), ground-fault circuit-interrupters, infant carriers (soft), infant swings, playground equipment for children less than two years of age, public playground equipment (two standards), playground surfacing, pool alarms, portable pools, motorized scooters (two standards), and treestands (two standards).

In total, the CPSC staff provided technical support to or monitored the development of 75 voluntary safety standards which are included in the information that follows. Nearly all of these were handled by three standards development/coordinating organizations: ASTM International (previously called the American Society for Testing and Materials), the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL). These standards provide safety provisions addressing potential hazards associated with consumer products found in our homes, schools, and recreational areas. In addition, CPSC staff continued monitoring conformance to selected voluntary product safety standards.

THE "V-STAR" REPORT

Below you will find the current Voluntary Standards Tracking and Access Report (V-STAR) which shows, among other things, the objective of the standard under development, the name of the employee leading each activity, and the status of the standard. Information from the CPSC staff was compiled and edited by the Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction to prepare the report. It is anticipated that this report will be issued twice a year, both for the middle and the end of the CPSC fiscal year which runs from October 1st to September 30th. Below is the *V-STAR FY 2008 Annual Report (October 2007 – September 2008)*.

INCREASED PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COMMENT

During the reporting period, the CPSC staff continued the program to provide more information on CPSC staff voluntary standards activities. Draft CPSC staff recommendations on issues to be considered by voluntary standards organizations were placed on the CPSC web site to allow for public review and comment. Further, the CPSC staff continued to expand the

voluntary standards portion of the CPSC web site with a goal of including information on all voluntary standards activities which the CPSC staff monitors and for which it provides technical support.

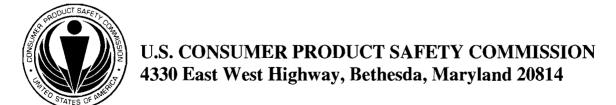
ONE-STOP SHOPPING FOR VOLUNTARY CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS

Maintenance of the CPSC web site continued to make it easier for users to find more extensive information on voluntary consumer product safety standards and certification information. Users were able to access the computer search engines of the three major standards organizations (ANSI, ASTM International, and UL) which handle over 90% of the voluntary safety standards on which the CPSC staff works. Further, the most recent midyear and annual reports on CPSC voluntary standards activities were added to the CPSC web site.

VOLUNTARY STANDARDS TRACKING AND ACCESS REPORT

CPSC STAFF VOLUNTARY STANDARDS ACTIVITIES

FY 2008 ANNUAL REPORT (October 2007 – September 2008)



VOLUNTARY STANDARDS TRACKING AND ACCESS REPORT

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff works cooperatively with standards developers, consumers, industry and other interested parties to develop consumer product safety standards. A description of these activities for the 2008 Fiscal Year from October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008, follows. The report contains, among other things, the objective of the standard under development, the name of the employee leading each activity, and the status of the standard.

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CPSC Staff Voluntary Standards Activities FY 2008 Annual Report

Product Air Cleaners

Staff Contact Thomas, Treye

Purpose To revise the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standard for Electrostatic Air

Cleaners (UL 867) to improve the repeatability of the ozone test method.

Activities A revised Standard for Electrostatic Air Cleaners (UL 867) was approved on

12/21/07. A UL working group developed clarifications for the ozone test procedures of electrostatic air cleaners and ionizers, which are included in the revision. Factors considered by the working group included chamber size, direction of air cleaner exhaust, air exchange rates, and length of testing. UL 867 outlines specific testing procedures to determine the amount of ozone that an air cleaner produces. Currently the limit in the UL standard for ozone produced by an

air cleaning device is 50 parts per billion (ppb).

On 4/18/08, UL issued a Certification Requirement Decision, which clarified room size dimensions for testing to determine the peak ozone output of an appliance. The Decision is not part of the UL standard, but it is required for certification to the

UL standard.

Prior to the reporting period, CPSC staff posted a contractor report and staff assessment on the CPSC Web site for public comment. The contractor report reviewed the ozone limit to determine whether it is sufficient to protect consumer health. CPSC staff is preparing an assessment of the contractor report and

addressing public comments on the report.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Air Mattresses (Portable)

Staff Contact Jonathan Midgett

Purpose To develop a new ASTM Standard Consumer Specification for Cautionary Labeling

of Inflatable Air Mattresses to reduce the risk of infant suffocation.

Activities In a 2/14/08 letter to ASTM, CPSC staff requested the development of a new

standard to address infant suffocation associated with inflatable air mattresses. CPSC staff provided incident data, which was reviewed at an organizational meeting on 4/17/08. A preliminary draft standard to address the hazard scenarios described in the incident reports was distributed for review at the meeting. The main strategy to reduce incidents relies on a warning label. A draft ballot closed on

8/18/08 with a few negative votes.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

Staff Contact

Paul, Caroleene

Purpose

To revise the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (SVIA) standard for *Four Wheel All-Terrain Vehicles – Equipment, Configuration, and Performance Requirements* (ANSI/SVIA 1) to reduce hazards associated with ATVs.

Activities

In 10/07, SVIA distributed a corrected copy of the ANSI/SVIA 1-2007 standard. While the submission SVIA made to ANSI for approval of the standard was correct, an error occurred during the pre-publication process, with an incorrect graphic being placed in the 7/23/07 printing.

In 2/08, SVIA distributed a reprinted copy of the ANSI/SVIA 1-2007 standard to include "Annex B – Interpretations." The annex provides interpretations of various sections of the standard dealing with labeling. The interpretations were made by SVIA and approved by the consensus body through a 12/07 interpretation ballot. Annex B is not a part of the standard but is included with the standard for

information purposes only.

Next Action

Monitor ANSI/SVIA standard activities.

Product

Amusement Rides (Portable)

Staff Contact

Caton, Tom

Purpose

To provide technical support to the development of new and revised standards by the ASTM International (ASTM) F24 Committee on Amusement Rides and Devices.

Activities

A revised Standard Practice for the Classification, Design, Manufacture, Construction, and Operation of Water Slide Systems (ASTM F 2376-08) was approved on 3/1/08. CPSC staff reviewed ballots for standard practices for terminology, design and manufacture, railways, water-related rides and devices, hydraulic systems, and amusement rides.

Next Action

Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting on 10/8-11/08.

Product Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs)

Staff Contact Lee, Doug

Purpose To strengthen the safety provisions of the UL Standard for Arc-Fault Circuit

Interrupters (UL 1699) and to support new AFCI technology devices to reduce the

fire hazard associated with electrical wiring in homes.

Activities A revised Standard for Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (UL 1699, 2nd Ed.) was

approved on 8/27/08. The revision incorporated improved arc testing, including a

carbonized path arc interruption test.

Requirements to extend AFCIs to dwelling unit living areas were accepted for the

2008 National Electrical Code (NEC). In 3/08, CPSC staff drafted a letter supporting state adoption of AFCI requirements in the 2008 edition of the NEC.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities; make proposals for the 2011 edition of the NEC to

expand residential use of AFCIs.

Product Artificial Turf Products

Staff Contact Kris Hatlelid

Purpose To develop a new ASTM standard to improve the safety of artificial turf products by

reducing the potential for lead exposure.

Activities In an 8/20/08 letter to ASTM, CPSC staff requested the development of a new

standard to address potential lead exposure from artificial turf products. CPSC staff provided its evaluation of several samples of artificial turf products and the possible lead exposure. In an 8/29/08 letter to CPSC staff, ASTM agreed to coordinate this activity. A task group was formed under the jurisdiction of Subcommittee F08.65 on Artificial Turf Surfaces and Systems. CPSC staff

participated in a virtual meeting of the task group on 9/12/08.

Next Action Review draft standard when available.

Product

Bassinets and Cradles

Staff Contact

Hackett, Patty

Purpose

To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bassinets and Cradles (ASTM F2194) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities

A revised Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bassinets and Cradles (ASTM F2194-07a) was approved on 10/01/07. The revised standard includes new corner post safety requirements.

CPSC staff participated in a task group to address fabric covered bassinets and hazards associated with entrapment. Issues included the strength of the fabric and fasteners for the covering, and possible mis-installation by consumers. Another task group is developing a list of issues and concerns involving bed-side sleepers (co-sleepers). Staff provided incident data to task groups addressing stability and protrusions. The data were reviewed at a 10/11/07 subcommittee meeting in which CPSC staff participated. Staff also participated in the subcommittee meeting on 4/1/08.

Next Action

Participate in task groups; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product

Bath Seats

Staff Contact

Hackett, Patty

Purpose

To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bath Seats (ASTM F1967) to eliminate or reduce the risk of infant drowning resulting from tipover and climbing out hazards.

Activities

CPSC staff provided incident data, which was reviewed at a 10/9/07 subcommittee meeting in which staff participated. The subcommittee worked on revisions to the standard to maintain consistency with a new infant tub standard that is being developed (see separate report on infant tubs). Staff also participated in a 4/2/08 subcommittee meeting. Proposals for bath seats issued by Health Canada and that are before the Canada Parliament were reviewed.

Next Action

Provide updated incident data; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Batteries

Staff Contact Lee, Doug

Purpose To provide technical support to the revision or development of new safety

standards and certification programs for high energy density batteries to ensure

safe and reliable use.

Activities A revised Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) Standard for

Rechargeable Batteries for Multi-Cell Mobile Computing Devices (IEEE 1625-2008)

was approved on 9/26/08.

CPSC staff participated in activities for several standards associated with batteries:

Underwriters Laboratories *Lithium Batteries* (UL 1642), *Household and Commercial Batteries* (UL 2054), IEEE *Rechargeable Batteries for Cellular Telephones* (IEEE 1725), and ANSI/National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) C18 Battery Committees. Staff attended several meetings (10/29/07, 2/19/08, 8/5/08, and 9/17/08) to discuss improving the safety of batteries through

voluntary safety standards.

UL began balloting additional procedures and construction requirements for certification of listed batteries that are designed to improve safety and reliability

during the cell and battery manufacturing process.

In a 2/25/08 letter to ASTM, staff requested that ASTM establish a working group to revise *Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety* (ASTM F963) to address overheating and fire risks associated with rechargeable batteries used in toys. CPSC staff drafted proposed requirements to address hazards associated

with rechargeable batteries used in toys.

Next Action Monitor voluntary standard activities.

Product Bed Rails

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bed Rails (ASTM

F2085) to improve the marking and labeling as well as to clarify testing procedures.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bed Rails (ASTM

F2085-08) was approved on 5/1/08. The revision to the standard included a

breakage performance requirement.

CPSC staff participated on task groups and also attended the 10/8/07 and 3/31/08 subcommittee meetings. A design guideline for manufacturers was developed with

CPSC staff participation and was proposed for the standard. It was being

evaluated for language and scope at the end of the reporting period.

Next Action Participate on task groups; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Bicycles

Staff Contact Amodeo, Vince

Purpose To develop new or revised ASTM safety standards for bicycles and bicycle

components.

Activities A new Standard Test Methods for Bicycle Frames (ASTM F2711-08) was approved on 4/1/08. CPSC staff reviewed ballots for three other new or revised standards, which were discussed at a 9/24/08 subcommittee meeting:

1) Standard Test Methods for Bicycle Manually Operated Front Wheel Retention Systems. The ballot for the draft standard closed 3/7/08, with some negative votes. Changes addressing the negatives, including new pictures to better portray test fixtures and test failure modes, are planned to be reballoted.

- 2) Standard Classification for Bicycle Usage (ASTM F2043). Revisions to expand the definitions of use conditions and to require that a bicycle be labeled with a graphic showing the appropriate use condition were balloted. The ballot closed on 8/18/08. Editorial changes, based on some negative ballots, will be reballoted.
- 3) Standard Test Method and Specification for Bicycle Handlebar Grips. This is a new standard under develoment. The ballot for the draft standard closed 8/18/08, and negatives were expected to be addressed in a working group.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Blind Cords

Activities

Staff Contact Paul, Caroleene

Purpose To revise the Window Covering Manufacturers Association (WCMA) Standard for Safety of Corded Window Covering Products (ANSI/WCMA A100.1) to reduce strangulation hazards associated with window covering cords.

On 10/30/07, CPSC staff participated in a WCMA Technical Committee meeting. Topics included Roman shades, roll-up blinds, products with multiple operational cords, and various editorial issues with the voluntary standard requirements. Staff participated in additional conference call meetings (2/21/08, 3/07/08, 4/29/08, 6/3/08, 7/10/08, 8/1/08, and 9/3/08) to discuss:

- 1) New requirements for inoperable blinds if tension devices are not used, and
- 2) Hazards associated with the inner cords of Roman shades.

Staff also attended a 3/27/08 meeting of the Technical Committee and another meeting on 5/22/08 to review fatal blind cord incidents that occurred in 2007 and 2008.

Next Action Participate in WCMA Technical Committee meeting on 10/1/08.

Product Booster Seats

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To assist in the revision of the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for

Booster Seats (ASTM F 2640) to address hazards associated with booster seats.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/9/07 and 4/3/08 to

discuss potential revisions to the standard. Revisions under development included adding an occupant retention performance requirement similar to what is in the

high chair standard.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Bunk Beds

Staff Contact Bathalon, Susan

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Bunk Beds

(ASTM F1427) to address the strangulation hazard associated with vertical

protrusions on bunk beds.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 1/17/08 subcommittee meeting to discuss

interpretation of the new test procedure approved in the ASTM F1427-07 revised standard. The subcommittee members are currently reworking the language for a

uniform approach to testing.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting on 10/30/08.

Product Cabinet Heaters/Cylinders

Staff Contact Khanna, Rikki

Purpose To revise the UL Standard for LP Gas Regulators (UL 144), the ANSI Draft

Standard for Propane-Fired Portable Heater Systems, (ANSI Z21.11.3), and the NFPA Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (NFPA 58) to improve consumer safety

associated with cabinet heaters and cylinders.

Activities At a 2/08 meeting of the National Petroleum and Gas Association (NPGA), the

NPGA Board decided to discontinue activities related to cabinet heaters. However, an International Cabinet Heater Coalition (including cabinet heater, cylinder, and valve/regulator manufacturers) formed a technical study task force to make

recommendations covering consumer education and marketing of cabinet heaters.

A UL Standards Technical Panel (STP) meeting was held on 6/24-25/08. Task groups reported on their activities and the status of proposals for cabinet heaters, and new proposals were discussed. In 8/08, the Canadian Standards Association Technical Advisory Group (TAG) adopted the revised ANSI Z21.11.3 (Draft Q) standard that was sent for review and comment. The major changes considered in the draft included requirements for U.S. Department of Transportation approval for composite cylinders, an increase in the maximum input rating of a cabinet heater to 15,000 BTU, a clothing ignition potential test, and a change in the filling density to 80 percent to match the requirement for steel and aluminum cylinders. The International Cabinet Heater Coalition was expected to send proposals to revise

NFPA 58 to allow use of cabinet heaters.

Next Action Monitor voluntary standard and code activities.

Product

Candles

Staff Contact

Tenney, Allyson

Purpose

To develop new ASTM safety standards to eliminate or significantly reduce fire hazards associated with candles and candle products.

Activities

CPSC staff participated in several task group meetings for fire safety (10/24/07, 1/16/08, 3/5/08, 6/4/08, and 9/10/08). Flammability requirements for candle holders, including candle/potpourri burners, were drafted for final review and for ballot to the F15 Committee and F15.45 Subcommittee. The ballot results called for minor revisions and additions to ASTM F2601 *Standard Specification for Fire Safety for Candle Accessories* that will be re-balloted to the Committee and Subcommittee.

Flammability requirements for tealight candle cups, additional provisions for candle stability, and a revised *Gel Candle Appendix* were drafted for final review and inclusion in ASTM F2417 *Standard Specification for Fire Safety for Candles*. The provisions of the appendix will not be mandatory but will provide practical guidance and recommendations for producing gel-based candle products. The revised and updated standard will be balloted to the Committee and Subcommittee.

Next Action

Await ballot results on both standards; participate in task group meeting on 10/29/08; monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

Staff Contact

Switzer, Don

Purpose

To revise the UL Standard for Single- and Multiple-Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms (UL 2034) to improve consumer safety.

Activities

Prior to the reporting period, CPSC staff proposed modifications to the *Standard for Single- and Multiple-Station Carbon Monoxide Alarms* (UL 2034) to improve digital display accuracy, to develop an end-of-life warning, and to develop a test method including CO alarm response to rising CO levels. The proposals for the rising CO concentration test and end-of-life warning were adopted by the UL Standards Technical Panel (STP). The provisions were accepted and become effective in 8/09.

In an 8/1/08 ballot, UL proposed revisions which sought to require a secondary rechargeable power source with 7-day capacity when fully charged. The ballot closed on 9/15/08. The proposal failed to achieve consensus. A number of comments expressed support for facets of the proposal, and several comments suggested specific changes to the proposal. A task group was formed to consider all of the comments received and to prepare a new proposal for consideration by the STP. Staff has requested to be included in the task group which planned to close membership solicitation on 10/20/08.

Next Action

Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Changing Tables (Diaper)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Product Safety Specification for Baby

Changing Tables for Domestic Use (ASTM F2388) to strengthen its safety

provisions.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Product Safety Specification for Baby Changing

Tables for Domestic Use (ASTM F2388-07) was approved on 10/1/07. The standard was revised again (ASTM F2388-08a) on 7/1/08. The revised standard includes new information about contoured pads. CPSC staff participated in task group activities to develop requirements for straps on changing tables. The task group requested that CPSC staff provide data regarding falls to see if the requirements for four-sided barriers have reduced the number of fall incidents.

Staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/11/07 and 4/1/08.

Next Action Provide incident data to task group; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in

10/08.

Product Child-Resistant Packaging

Staff Contact Sharpless, Perry

Purpose To revise requirements for the ASTM Standard Classification of Child-Resistant

Packages (ASTM D3475) to improve safety.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/29/07, 5/13/08, and

9/30/08. A closure torque round-robin test involving a number of different laboratories was discussed to address the variability of closure torque

measurements. Proposals were developed to reflect new types of child-resistant

packages and update manufacturer product information.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Cribs (Commercial)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To develop safety requirements for a new ASTM safety standard for cribs in

commercial settings, such as hotels and day care centers.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/22/07 and 4/1/08. Ballot

results for a proposed new standard were reviewed and comments were addressed. The draft new standard needed to be reballoted. CPSC staff participated in task group activities on wood screws used in cribs. Staff also participated in discussions regarding development of requirements for evacuation cribs (cribs that would be used in a daycare environment and would facilitate

evacuation of several children in the event of an emergency).

Next Action Review ballot when available; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Cribs (Full-Size)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Full-Size Cribs

(ASTM F1169) to reduce the hazards associated with these products.

Activities In a 10/12/07 letter, CPSC staff requested that ASTM develop performance

requirements to address hazards associated with hardware failures on cribs. A task group on crib hardware was formed, and staff participated in the task group activities to evaluate various performance tests aimed at exposing hardware failures. In a 8/07/08 letter to ASTM, CPSC staff recommended that additional requirements be developed to address wood failures, as many were seen in the field in the last year. Staff conducted laboratory tests to help develop requirements to address this issue. Staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/11/07

and 4/1/08.

Next Action Continue testing and participation on task groups; participate in ASTM

subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Cribs (Non-Full-Size) and Play Yards

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size

Baby Cribs/Play Yards (ASTM F406) to reduce the hazards associated with these

products.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Full-Size Baby

Cribs/Play Yards (ASTM F406-08) was approved on 2/15/08. The revision

includes new requirements to prevent hazardous strap loops.

CPSC staff participated in task groups to address hazards associated with false latching, mattress size, and mis-assembly. Staff also participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/11/07 and 4/1/08. Staff provided data for incidents involving cords

associated with cribs or play yards.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Electric Lighting

Staff Contact Luo, Anna

Purpose To revise the UL safety standards for Portable Electric Luminaires (UL 153),

Luminaires (UL 1598), and Lampholders (UL 496) to reduce the risks of fire and

shock associated with electric lighting.

Activities To assess the adequacy of the voluntary standards in addressing fire hazards

associated with electric lighting products, CPSC staff conducted an analysis of CPSC in-depth investigation reports along with an examination of incident samples to try to determine the root causes of lighting-related fires. The staff's report, *Evaluation of Electric Lighting Products*, was reviewed by the American Lighting Association and the National Electrical Manufacturers Association. The report was

finalized and posted on the CPSC Web site on 1/29/08.

UL circulated proposed revisions to the UL 496 STP for balloting and comment on 1/19/07. The proposed changes included an insulation-piercing lampholder terminal temperature test to cover candelabra lampholders, which are the type most commonly used in ceiling surface-mount luminaires. When the balloting closed on 03/05/07, consensus was achieved to accept the proposed changes. The STP process requires that comments be circulated to the members for reconsideration of the proposals. The one negative comment to the ballot and UL's response were circulated to STP members on 1/11/08. The ballot closed on 2/25/08. The updated version of UL 496 that includes an insulation-piercing lampholder terminal temperature test for candelabra lampholders was scheduled to be issued near the end of the reporting period, with a proposed effective date of

Next Action Project completed.

Product Emergency Escape Masks

9/30/10.

Staff Contact Khanna, Rikki

Purpose To develop revisions to the International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA)

Standard for Air-Purifying Respiratory Protective Escape Devices (ANSI/ISEA 110)

to improve consumer safety.

Activities In 10/07, CPSC staff provided two staff evaluations to the ISEA Respiratory

Protective Escape Devices (RPED) group. The reports detailed the results of performance testing and human factors analyses of consumer fire escape masks. In 1/08, CPSC staff was invited to participate in a consensus review of proposed revisions to the ANSI/ISEA 110 standard. A draft standard was balloted in 4/08,

and the ballot closed on 6/13/08. Staff reviewed the draft standard.

Next Action Present CPSC staff recommendations for RPED group review.

Extension Cords Product

Staff Contact Butturini, Randy

Purpose To revise the requirements for mechanical performance of extension cords in the

UL Standard for Cordsets and Power Supply Cords (UL 817) to improve safety.

CPSC staff reviewed in-depth investigation (IDI) reports to determine if details in Activities

the reports could identify mechanical stresses experienced by extension cords

involved in fire incidents.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Fans (Portable)

Staff Contact Lee, Doug

Purpose To revise the UL Standard for Electric Fans (UL 507) to reduce the risk of electric

shock associated with electric fans for home-use inflatable children's toys.

Activities Prior to the reporting period, CPSC staff submitted a proposal to the UL STP on

> electric fans to address potential electric shock hazards associated with home-use inflatable children's toys. On 2/26/08, UL proposed to change the scope of the UL

> 507 standard to move these fans to the UL Standard for Motor Operated Compressors, Vacuum Pumps, and Painting Equipment (UL 1450). This was considered because additional requirements are needed to address back pressure

of inflatable products.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Fuel Tanks **Product**

Staff Contact Bathalon, Susan

To develop a new ANSI Standard for Small Off-Road Ground Supported Outdoor **Purpose**

> Power Equipment Gasoline Fuel Systems Performance Specifications and Test Procedures (ANSI B71.10) to minimize hazards associated with fuel leakage from

plastic gasoline tanks and fuel delivery components used on powered lawn

equipment.

Activities There was no activity on this standard during the reporting period.

Monitor ANSI subcommittee activities. Next Action

Product Furniture

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Safety Specification for Chests, Door Chests, and

Dressers (ASTM F2057) and the UL Standard for Household, Commercial, and Professional-Use Carts and Standards for Use with Audio/Video Equipment (UL 1678) to address injuries and deaths of children associated with furniture tip-over

and television tip-over, respectively.

Activities CPSC staff continued to monitor activities to strengthen the stability requirements

for clothing storage units mainly intended for use in children's rooms. A ballot to increase the scope of the standard and to require restraints in product packaging closed on 1/24/08. The proposal was not approved. A virtual meeting was held on 4/28/08 to discuss ballot results. Negative votes were addressed, and a second ballot was issued on 6/17/08. Negative votes were received. Many of the

negatives referred to the inclusion of tip-over restraints.

On 7/11/08, UL circulated a proposal for preliminary review. The proposal included updated stability test considerations for furniture using flat-panel televisions. The

comment period closed on 8/13/08.

There were no activities of a task group on glass top furniture during the reporting period. A discussion among the subcommittee regarding glass top furniture was

limited to citing existing standards for glass when used with furniture.

Next Action Monitor ASTM and UL standard activities.

Product Garage Door/Gate Operators

Staff Contact Murphy, John

Purpose To develop or revise the standards for garage doors and gate operators, which

include the UL Standard for Door, Drapery, Gate, Louver, and Window Operators and Systems (UL 325) and the Door and Access Systems Manufacturers Association (DASMA) Standard for Section Interfaces on Residential Garage Door Systems (ANSI/DASMA 116), to address safety hazards associated with this

equipment.

Activities In 2008, CPSC staff participated in conference calls of the UL STP to discuss

several proposals to revise requirements for garage door operator/garage door systems and garage door operators with two inherent entrapment protection devices. On 3/28/08, UL distributed a proposal for additional requirements for pedestrian doors for motion detectors and system approaches. The proposal was recirculated on 8/21/08, and the comment period closed on 9/19/08. In addition, on 5/2/08 UL distributed a proposal to add requirements to address products that automatically close a garage door or that allow a garage door to be closed when the door is not intended to be in the line of sight of the person activating the operator. After recirculation of the proposal on 7/11/08, the comment period closed on 7/25/08. On 8/15/08, UL distributed a preliminary proposal regarding changes for secondary inherent entrapment protection and photoelectric sensors. The

comment period closes on 10/15/08.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Gasoline Containers

Staff Contact Murphy, John

Purpose
To revise the ASTM Standard Specification for Determination of Child-Resistance of Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM F2517) and the ASTM Standard Specification for Spill Resistant Fueling Systems for Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM F2234) to address hazards associated with

these products.

Activities The following revised standards were approved by ASTM during the reporting period:

- 1) A revised Standard Specification for Spill Resistant Fueling Systems for Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM F2234-07) was approved on 11/1/07. Another revision to the standard (ASTM F2234-08) was approved on 3/1/08.
- 2) A revised Standard Specification for Portable Gasoline Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM F852–08) was approved on 7/1/08, and
- 3) A revised Standard Specification for Portable Kerosene and Diesel Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM 976-08) was approved on 7/1/08.

In 2007, revisions to the Standard Specification for Determination of Child-Resistance of Portable Fuel Containers for Consumer Use (ASTM F2517) were balloted. There were several negative votes, which were resolved at a meeting of the subcommittee. On 12/24/07, a ballot was reissued. Several additional comments were received during this ballot. CPSC staff participated in an 8/21/08 meeting of the subcommittee, at which negative comments were resolved. Revisions to the standard will be reballoted.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Generators (Portable)

Staff Contact Buyer, Janet

Purpose To develop a new UL Standard for Portable Engine Generator Assemblies (UL

Subject 2201) to reduce carbon monoxide deaths associated with portable

generators.

Activities On 11/2/07. UL forwarded a revised version of UL 2201 to the STP for comment.

CPSC staff submitted comments on 12/17/07. Consensus was not obtained. Of the 29 eligible voters, eight voted in favor of the standard. UL convened a meeting of the STP on 2/27-28/08 and a technical forum on 2/26/08 to discuss a number of the unresolved issues. CPSC staff attended both meetings. Some issues were resolved, and others were assigned to working groups. There were no reports

from these working groups at the end of the reporting period.

Next Action After the task groups have completed their work, UL will issue revised proposals to

the STP for preliminary review. Based on comments received, UL may host

another STP meeting at that time.

Product Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs)

Staff Contact Lee, Doug

Purpose To improve the effectiveness of GFCIs by making them less dependent on

consumer testing and to revise the UL Standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-

Interrupters (UL 943), as appropriate.

Activities A revised Standard for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (ANSI/UL 943) was

approved on 2/22/08, which includes revisions for the electrical ratings markings.

On 11/30/07, UL issued an advisory on receptacle-type GFCIs; the advisory

involved recently-added product requirements in the standard.

CPSC staff continued to encourage National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) members to develop enhanced GFCIs that provide a self/auto testing

feature and that do not provide power if the GFCI is not capable of providing the shock protection for which it is designed.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Heaters (Electric)

Staff Contact Butturini, Randy

Purpose To revise the UL standards for electric heaters to reduce the risk of fire, including the Standard for Electric Baseboard Heating Equipment (UL 1042), the Standard for Movable and Wall- or Ceiling-Hung Electric Room Heaters (UL 1278), and the

Standard for Fixed and Location-Dedicated Electric Room Heaters (UL 2021).

Activities In 2

In 2007, CPSC staff made recommendations for revisions to the standards for electric heaters. The proposals included requirements for the use of manual reset temperature limiting controls (instead of auto reset controls) for most residential portable and fixed-position electric heaters. At a 6/3/08 UL Standards Technical Panel (STP) meeting, the staff's proposals were presented and discussed. Subsequent to the meeting, the proposals were expanded and split into two proposals for each voluntary standard. One proposal dealt with the use of manual reset temperature limiting controls for most residential electric heaters. The other proposal was for the use of audible alarms for heaters using auto reset temperature limiting controls. These were submitted to the STP for balloting.

Proposals for the Standard for Electric Baseboard Heating Equipment (UL 1042) for additional supply cord requirements, requirements for normal operation of temperature-limiting devices, and additional manufacturing/production line testing were issued on 9/21/07 with comments due on 11/5/07. Balloting was completed for the supply cord with all the measures being approved for inclusion in the standard.

To support task group activities researching heat flux measurements to replace or augment current performance requirements, CPSC staff completed a study of flux measurements of radiant electric heaters. The staff study investigated the practical aspects of making repeatable measurements. The results may be used to support replacing or augmenting performance tests in the voluntary standards with quantitative measurements. The final report, *Flux Mapping of Radiant Electric Heaters; Repeatability Considerations,* was posted on the CPSC Web site in 6/08.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Helmets (Recreational)

Staff Contact McCallion, Rick

Purpose To revise the ASTM safety standards and test methods for recreational helmets to

improve safety.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee and task group meetings on 11/15/07.

Discussions included incorporation of variable mass headforms and lower acceleration impacts for helmets. One subcommittee member presented data showing that a variable mass headform may more accurately represent a rider's head. A task group was formed to review the issue. The downhill bicycle helmet standard was placed on the Main Committee ballot for reauthorization and the standard guideline for helmet labeling passed the Main Committee ballot.

Staff also participated in subcommittee and task group meetings on 5/13-16/08 including meetings on the headgear labeling standard and equestrian helmets.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product High Chairs

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for High Chairs

(ASTM F404) to strengthen its safety provisions dealing with entrapment and falls.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 10/8/07 subcommittee meeting at which language for

a new requirement for side openings on high chairs was reviewed. The

requirement was passed at the 4/3/08 subcommittee meeting. A requirement for passive crotch restraints, which was re-worded for clarity, was expected to be

included in the next revision of the standard.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product

Hot Tubs and Spas

Staff Contact

Whitfield, Troy

Purpose

To revise the UL Standard for Electric Spas, Equipment Assemblies, and Associated Equipment (UL 1563) to address safe temperatures for pregnant women.

Activities

UL circulated proposals to revise UL 1563 on 10/22/07 with a closing date of 12/6/07. Revised proposals were recirculated on 12/19/07 with a closing date of 1/18/08. Revisions included requirements to address hyperthermia-related construction, as well as updated markings and safety instructions. The revisions would allow temperatures above 104°F, but there must be an intentional input (override) on the part of the user. The temperature setting would automatically reset to the 104°F maximum without further input.

A new proposal to update suction fitting requirements and lighting enclosures was issued to the STP on 9/16/08. The comment period closes on 10/17/08.

Next Action

Monitor UL standard activities.

Product

Infant Bedding and Accessories

Staff Contact

Hackett, Pattv

Purpose

To provide technical support to the ASTM F15.19 Subcommittee on Infant Bedding which has responsibility for maintaining the *Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Infant Bedding and Related Accessories* (ASTM F1917).

Activities

CPSC staff continued to review data associated with incidents involving infant bedding and accessories. Staff participated in the subcommittee meeting on 4/2/08. A revision to the standard dealing with warning labels was discussed. The subcommittee was asked to look at sleep positioners as a possible addition to the scope of this standard.

Next Action

Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Bouncers

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Bouncer

Seats (ASTM F2167) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in the 10/8/07 and 3/31/08 subcommittee meetings. In

addition, staff participated on a task group to address concerns with the forward stability test procedure. Due to incomplete incident data, the subcommittee was reluctant to change the test procedure. Toy bar attachment performance requirements were developed but require additional analysis before balloting.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Carriers (Frame)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To assist in revisions to the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for

Frame Child Carriers (ASTM F2549) to minimize the risk of injuries to occupants of

infant frame carriers.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/10/07 and 4/2/08. These

meetings were combined with the meetings on soft infant carriers. Unintentional

folding was discussed and a task group was formed.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Carriers (Hand-Held)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for

Hand-Held Infant Carriers (ASTM F2050) to minimize the risk of injuries to

occupants.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/10/07 and 4/3/08, as well

as a task group to evaluate handle integrity. The task group work continued with

CPSC staff taking the lead in the development of a dynamic test for the

requirement.

Next Action Participate on task groups; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Carriers (Soft)

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Soft Infant

Carriers (ASTM F2236) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Soft Infant Carriers (ASTM

F2236-08) was approved on 3/1/08. Revisions to the standard include a test requirement for carriers without bounded leg openings CPSC staff participated in

subcommittee meetings on 10/10/07 and 4/2/08.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Gates

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Expansion Gates

and Expandable Enclosures (ASTM F1004) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 10/9/07 subcommittee meeting. Staff also provided

technical support for possible revisions to the standard to address injuries

associated with tripping. Staff provided injury data to the subcommittee chairman

in 2/08.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Swings

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Swings

(ASTM F2088) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Swings (ASTM

F2088-08) was approved on 1/15/08. The revisions included additional requirements for toy accessories and changes to structural integrity, restraint

system, battery operated swing, and stability requirements.

CPSC staff participated in a 10/9/07 subcommittee meeting. Requirements for stability performance and a warning label were discussed. At the 4/3/08 subcommittee meeting, staff provided incident data, which was reviewed at the

meeting.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Tubs

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To develop a new ASTM safety standard to address the hazards associated with

infant tubs.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 10/9/07 subcommittee meeting at which ballot results

for a proposed new standard were reviewed. Task groups were formed to address elevated surfaces, static load tests, stability, and rationale. The proposed standard

was reballoted, and the results of the ballot were reviewed at a 4/2/08

subcommittee meeting in which staff participated. Due to a negative vote, the ballot must be reballoted. CPSC staff was asked to provide updated incident data

for subcommittee review.

Next Action Provide incident data; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Infant Walkers

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for

Infant Walkers (ASTM F977) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/9/07 and 4/3/08. CPSC

staff also participated on the task group reviewing the step test. This task group was examining the variables associated with the test procedure to isolate the ones

that can cause discrepancies in results.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Inflatables (Constant Air)

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To develop a new ASTM safety standard for constant air inflatable playground

devices intended for residential settings.

Activities CPSC staff participated in meetings of the ASTM F15.61 Subcommittee to assist in

the development of a proposed new standard for constant air inflatable devices for residential use. CPSC staff participation included review and editing of the draft standard and discussion of ballot comments. A draft standard was balloted on 4/4/08. Negative votes were received, which require that the draft standard be

further reviewed and edited.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Ladders

Staff Contact Caton, Tom

Purpose To provide technical support to the ANSI A14 Subcommittee for Ladder Safety

and Ladder Standards. The standards included within this subcommittee's responsibility include: *Wood Ladders* (ANSI A14.1), *Portable Metal Ladders* (ANSI A14.2), *Portable Plastic Reinforced Ladders* (ANSI A14.5), *Portable Special Duty Ladders* (ANSI A14.10), and *Mobile Ladder Stands and Mobile Ladder Stand*

Platforms (ANSI A14.7).

Activities CPSC staff participated in ANSI subcommittee meetings on 10/17/07 and 4/23/08.

A new standard for *Step Stools* (ANSI A14.11) was being prepared. Ladder tests were being adjusted for stepladders, and the definition of a step stool or stepladder was being revised for products in the 2- and 3-foot high range. The ANSI-ASC A14 subcommittee was also moving forward on a new standard for ladder accessories. The labeling task force was reviewing labeling needs for ladders.

Next Action Participate in ANSI subcommittee meeting on 10/21/08.

Product Lead in Children's Vinyl (PVC) Products

Staff Contact Hatlelid, Kris

Purpose To develop a new ASTM standard to address the hazards associated with lead in

certain children's vinyl products.

Activities Prior to the reporting period, at an ASTM organizational meeting which resulted in

forming the F15.62 Subcommittee on Lead in Children's Vinyl Products, a draft standard was distributed for review. CPSC staff submitted its comments on the draft standard on 10/03/2007. Revisions to the draft standard were circulated and discussed at a 11/27/07 subcommittee meeting. Staff submitted its comments on

the revised draft standard on 4/16/08. Revisions to the second draft were discussed at the 4/29/08 subcommittee meeting. The draft standard was included in an F15 committee ballot, and staff submitted comments on the draft (7/22/08). The draft was revised based on negative votes and comments on the ballot (due 9/10/08). Staff had no comments on the revised draft. In addition, staff participated

on a task group developing test methods.

Next Action Participate in test method development and evaluation.

Product Lighters

Staff Contact Khanna, Rikki

Purpose To monitor revisions to the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for

Lighters (ASTM F400) and the ASTM Consumer Specification for Utility Lighters

(ASTM F2201) to reduce the fire hazard associated with mechanical failure.

Activities In 2007, CPSC staff participated in a subcommittee meeting at which proposed

changes to both ASTM F400-04 and ASTM F2201-02 were discussed with the purpose of making the language consistent among the lighter standards and to clarify instructions and warnings, e.g., when to use "shall" and "as appropriate". CPSC staff presented information on labeling based on requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA). Due to the nature of changes to attempt to make the language in the standards consistent with FHSA labeling requirements, the subcommittee agreed that proposed changes should be drafted for review and comment. A ballot containing proposed changes was sent out for subcommittee review on 7/4/08. Negative votes were received on the ballot that

require resolution.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Mowers

Staff Contact Murphy, John

Purpose To revise the ANSI Standard for Consumer Turf Care Equipment – Walk-Behind

Mowers and Ride-On Machines with Mowers – Safety Specifications (ANSI

B71.1-2003) to improve its safety provisions.

Activities There was no activity on this standard during the reporting period.

Next Action Monitor ANSI B71.1 Committee activities.

Product National Electrical Code (NEC)

Staff Contact Lee, Doug

Purpose To revise the safety provisions of the National Fire Protection Association's National Electrical Code (NFPA 70 or NEC) to reduce electrical fires and shock

associated with consumer products including appliances, electrical equipment, and

wiring products.

Activities In 3/08 and 5/08, CPSC staff drafted letters supporting state adoption of AFCI requirements, the removal of ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) exceptions, and the use of tamper-resistant receptacles as written in the 2008 edition of the NEC.

On 11/1/08, the Fire Protection Research Foundation released its final report on aging wiring systems. CPSC technical staff participated as members of the technical advisory committee. The goal of the project was to provide recommendations for aging wiring systems in older homes to consumers and code writers, such as the committees for the *National Electrical Code* (NFPA 70) and the *Electrical Inspection Code for Existing Dwellings* (NFPA 73). Under this project (www.homewiringhazards.com), electrical components were removed from houses that were scheduled to be torn down and the components were analyzed in a laboratory to determine specific characteristics of the aged equipment. The study found three factors that may contribute to electrical wiring fires:

- 1) The effects of natural aging over time on the electrical system wiring and its components,
- 2) Misuse or abuse of the electrical system components in the home by the occupants, and
- 3) Non-Code compliant installations, upgrades, or repairs.

Next Action

Make proposals for the 2011 edition of the *NEC*; proposals due 11/7/08. Staff will work with an NFPA 73 task group to make specific recommendations for changes to NFPA 73 based on the study findings.

Product Playground Equipment (<2 Years Old)

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for

Public Use Play Equipment for Children 6 Months to 23 Months (ASTM F2373).

Such equipment often is found in childcare facilities.

Activities A revised Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for Public Use

Play Equipment for Children 6 Months to 23 Months (ASTM F2373-08) was

approved on 6/15/08. Revisions included clarifications of definitions.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Playground Equipment (Home)

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for

Home Playground Equipment (ASTM F1148) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 1/29/08 subcommittee meeting. The group discussed

the dynamic impact test for swing elements. A report from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) committee on their proposed dynamic impact test was discussed. The subcommittee decided to drop plans for a study of monkey bars over swings and voted to no longer allow suspended items from overhead ladders. Task groups were formed to review and update the definitions section, to review requirements for components that incorporate water, and to review warning labels that may be placed on a product. CPSC staff provided an

update on revisions to the staff's Public Playground Safety Handbook.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Playground Equipment (Public)

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Performance Specification for

Public Playground Equipment (ASTM F1487) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities In 2007, CPSC staff shared copies of the staff's draft revised Public Playground

Safety Handbook with subcommittee members for comment. Staff incorporated changes to the Handbook to address subcommittee comments. At the 5/08 meeting, CPSC staff presented the new revised *Public Playground Safety Handbook*. Staff received additional comments from the subcommittee members regarding areas in which members feel there is still some conflict between the

CPSC staff document and ASTM standards.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Playground Surfacing Product

Staff Contact McCallion, Rick

To revise ASTM standards associated with playground surfacing to reduce the risk **Purpose**

of fall-related injuries, especially life-threatening head injuries. These standards include the Standard Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surface Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment (ASTM F1292), Standard

Specification for Determination of Firmness and Stability of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment (ASTM F1951) and the Standard Guide for ASTM Standards on Playground Surfacing (ASTM F2223). The Guide describes how to apply existing ASTM standards to evaluate impact attenuation, accessibility characteristics, and product characteristics when selecting surface systems for use

under and around playground equipment.

Activities A new Standard Specification for Determination of Accessibility of Surface Systems

Under and Around Playground Equipment was approved on 3/1/08. CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 11/14/07 and 5/4/08. The subcommittee continued working on the Standard Specification for Determination of Firmness and Stability of Surface Systems Under and Around Playground Equipment (ASTM F1951-99). Revisions to the Standard Test Methods for Comprehensive

Characterization of Synthetic Turf Playing Surfaces and Materials (ASTM F1551-03) were ongoing. Staff presented an update on its activity to revise the CPSC Handbook for Public Playground Safety. The surfacing task group presented an

update of its activities.

Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities. Next Action

Pool Alarms

Staff Contact Whitfield, Trov

Product

To revise the ASTM Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms **Purpose**

(ASTM F2208) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities A revised Standard Safety Specification for Residential Pool Alarms (ASTM F2208-

> 08) was approved on 5/1/08. Provisions included revisions of the test procedures to address inconsistent results observed during CPSC staff testing of pool alarms.

Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities. **Next Action**

Product Pool Suction (Vacuum) Release Devices

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Specification for Manufactured Safety Vacuum

Release Systems (SVRS) for Swimming Pools, Spas and Hot Tubs (ASTM F2387) and the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Standard for Manufactured Safety Vacuum Release Systems (SVRS) for Residential and Commercial Swimming Pool, Spa, Hot Tub, Wading Pool Suction Systems

(ANSI/ASME A112.19.17) to strengthen their safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff continued to review and test the protocols found in both the ASTM

F2387 and ANSI/ASME A112.19.17 standards on safety vacuum release systems for swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. Requirements for vent systems for pools, spas, hot tubs and wading pools were balloted, and the ballot closed on 6/19/08. Negative votes were received and addressed. Revised requirements were

reballoted, and the comment period closed on 9/10/08.

Next Action Monitor ASTM and ASME subcommittee activities.

Product Pools and Spas

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To revise the ASME standard for drain covers, Suction Fittings for Use in

Swimming Pools, Wading Pools, Spas, and Hot Tubs (ASME/ANSI A112.19.8), to address entrapment/entanglement; to develop or revise ANSI/Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) performance standards for swimming pool, spa and

hot tub construction to reduce injury and drowning incidents.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a meeting on 2/11/08 to discuss a new addendum to the

ASME/ANSI A112.19.8 standard to correct the UV light test procedure. The addendum was issued in 8/08. In addition to changes in the UV test procedure, the addendum removed the requirement to mark an outlet cover with the ASME

symbol and/or the document number.

Staff also participated in virtual meetings on 3/20/08 and 3/28/08 to discuss revisions to the APSP-7 standard on entrapment avoidance. As a result of

discussions, revisions to address entrapment avoidance through various means of

pool construction or retrofit will be balloted. Expected revisions include performance requirements for entrapment avoidance mechanisms, including gravity drainage systems, suction outlet covers, atmospheric vent systems, and

suction vacuum release systems (SVRS).

Next Action Monitor ASME and APSP subcommittee activities.

Product

Portable Pools

Staff Contact

Whitfield, Troy

Purpose

To develop a new ASTM Standard Safety Specification for Aboveground Portable Pools for Residential Use (ASTM F2666), which includes one-piece vinyl, plastic, soft-sided, and inflatable pools.

Activities

A new Standard Safety Specification for Aboveground Portable Pools for Residential Use (ASTM F2666-07) was approved on 11/01/07. The new standard specifies performance, labeling, and warning requirements. CPSC staff suggested language for inclusion in an Annex to the standard regarding layers of protection. Staff participated in a subcommittee meeting on 9/11/08 to discuss ballot results and to address the negative votes and comments received. The standard is being revised to address the negatives and will be reballoted.

Next Action

Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product

Pressure Cookers

Staff Contact

Khanna, Rikki

Purpose

To revise the UL *Standard for Pressure Cookers* (UL 136) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities

CPSC staff monitored the activities of the UL 136 STP. In 1/08, UL issued a Certification Requirement Decision with revised performance tests to address concerns related to cover removal while the pressure cooker is under pressure. On 7/11/08, UL distributed several proposals for preliminary review. The proposals included revised cover test requirements, revised steam release requirements for relief devices, a new handle temperature test, and clarification of requirements for the cover removal/cover opening test. The comment period closed on 9/12/08.

Next Action

Monitor UL standard activities.

Product

Range Extinguishing Systems

Staff Contact

Mehta, Shivani

Purpose

To develop new requirements for the UL *Outline of Investigation for Extinguishing System Units for Residential Range Top Cooking Surfaces* (UL 300A) to address the risk of fire associated with ignition of food on cooktops.

Activities

There were no activities during the reporting period.

Next Action

Receive test data from NIST and complete analysis of test data.

Product

Ranges

Staff Contact

Karen, Mike

Purpose

To provide technical support for the revision of UL *Standard for Household Electric Ranges* (UL 858) to reduce the potential tipover hazard associated with freestanding ranges.

Activities

In response to a CPSC staff letter, a UL range stability task group met on 11/9/07 to discuss range stability issues and requirements. In response to meeting action items, CPSC staff provided details on the range tipover incidents that had been referenced in the initial letter to UL.

In 9/08, ES staff initiated an activity to evaluate the current requirements addressing the range tipover hazard.

Next Action

Monitor UL standard activities.

Product

Scooters (Motorized)

Staff Contact

Amodeo, Vince

Purpose

To provide technical assistance to the ASTM F15.58 Powered Scooters and Skateboards Subcommittee to develop or revise safety standards for motorized scooters.

Activities

The following new standards were approved by ASTM during the reporting period:

- 1) Consumer Safety Specification for Recreational Powered Scooters and Pocket Bikes (ASTM F2641-08) was approved on 7/1/08, and
- 2) Specification for Safety Instructions and Labeling for Recreational Powered Scooters and Pocket Bikes (ASTM F2462-08) was approved on 8/1/08.

Prior to approval of these standards, CPSC staff participated in a 1/22/08 teleconference to address negative results on prior ballots.

Next Action

Project completed.

Product Smoke Alarms

Staff Contact Lee, Arthur

Purpose To revise the UL Standard for Single- and Multiple-Station Smoke Alarms (UL 217)

to improve consumer safety and to revise the National Fire Protection Association

(NFPA) National Fire Alarm Code (NFPA 72).

Activities CPSC staff participated on the NFPA 72 Home Occupancy Usage (HOU) task

group to evaluate the effectiveness of different smoke alarm sensors. The scope of the task group was to evaluate new information and claims relative to the performance of specific types of smoke detection (ionization and photoelectric) and determine if the current NFPA 72 requirements for placement and usage of non-specific types of smoke detector sensors in smoke alarms provide adequate life safety. CPSC staff participated in monthly teleconferences from 11/07 through 3/08. The task group completed a report on the findings and recommendations for the NFPA 72 HOU Technical Panel. Staff participated in a 1/08 NFPA 72 Report on Proposals (ROP) meeting in 1/08 for the development of the next edition of the

NFPA 72 code.

CPSC staff participated in four task groups for UL 217 to address nuisance alarms, audibility, sensitivity, and labeling, including multiple teleconferences for each task group. Staff was conducting testing to support task group activities on nuisance

alarms at the end of the reporting period.

Next Action Participate in UL 217 task group activities; participate in NFPA 72 ROP meeting

during the winter of 2008.

Product Soccer Goals

Staff Contact Whitfield, Troy

Purpose To provide technical support to the ASTM subcommittee for soccer goal safety

standards to address tipover or other hazards to children. The standards included with this subcommittee's responsibility include: Guide for Safer Use of Movable Soccer Goals (ASTM F1938), Standard Safety and Performance Specification for Soccer Goals (ASTM F2056), and Standard Safety Specification for Special Tip-

Resistant Movable Soccer Goals (ASTM F2673).

Activities A new Standard for Tip Resistant Soccer Goals (ASTM F2673-08) was approved

on 2/1/08. The standard includes performance requirements for resistance to tip-

over under a 200 lb. load. Staff initiated an activity to evaluate the new

requirements in addressing the soccer goal tipover hazard.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Stationary Activity Centers

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Stationary Activity

Centers (ASTM F2012) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/9/07 and 4/3/08. The

subcommittee reviewed new provisions for stability requirements for non-saucer-like centers. In addition, a task group was developing requirements for designs of

activity centers that rotate around a center post.

Next Action Monitor task group activities; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Strollers

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Carriages and

Strollers (ASTM F833) to strengthen the safety provisions.

Activities CPSC staff participated in subcommittee meetings on 10/10/07 and 4/2/08. A

requirement for occupant retention (to address entrapment in passive

containment/foot openings) was discussed and was expected to be sent to ballot.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Table Saws

Staff Contact Paul, Caroleene

Purpose To revise the UL Standard for Stationary and Fixed Electric Tools (UL 987) to

reduce the risk of laceration and amputation associated with table saw blade

contact.

Activities On 3/19/08, UL circulated draft proposals for revisions to UL 987 for preliminary

review. The draft proposals included revisions to clarify the position of the test probe while it was applied to a side barrier of a blade guard during testing and revisions to clarify procedures for testing the blade guard of a riving knife or riving knife/spreader combination. The comment period closed on 4/18/08. On 7/4/08, UL circulated revised proposals to the UL 987 Standards Technical Panel (STP) for review and comment. The proposed revisions clarify requirements regarding direction and force of a test probe during blade guard testing and clarify references

made in tables and requirements. The comment period closed on 8/18/08. The negative comments that were received will be addressed, and revised proposals

will be recirculated in 10/08.

Next Action Monitor UL standard activities.

Product Toddler Beds

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toddler Beds

(ASTM F1821) to include corner post requirements and to update the standard's

warning language.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 3/31/08 subcommittee meeting. Staff provided

incident data for subcommittee review, which included an in-depth investigation report of a fatality. CPSC staff was asked to provide follow-up incident data

regarding entrapments in toddler beds and orientation of rails.

Next Action Provide incident data; participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.

Product Toys

Staff Contact Amodeo, Vince

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Toy Safety

(ASTM F963) to strengthen its safety provisions.

Activities During the reporting period, staff participated in several virtual working group

meetings for magnet toys regarding age grading, magnet strength, magnet size, and use and abuse requirements. CPSC staff also participated in a 3/6/08 subcommittee meeting. Task groups on magnets, projectiles, flammability, and yo-

yo tether toys reported the status of their activities.

Staff participated in a 9/16/08 subcommittee meeting to discuss federal legislation, ballot results, and new activities. The status of the activities of several ongoing work groups (including magnets, impaction hazards, crib toy entanglement, cords and elastics, hemispherical toys, ride-on toys and seats, projectiles, toy chests, and folding mechanisms) was provided. In response to a 2/25/08 letter in which CPSC staff requested that ASTM establish a working group to address overheating

and fire risks associated with rechargeable batteries used in toys, the

subcommittee chairman agreed to distribute the letter to members and compile

their comments.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee and working group activities.

Product Treestands

Staff Contact Karen, Mike

Purpose To provide technical support for the development of new or revised standards for

hunting treestands and associated equipment to reduce hazards to consumers.

Activities On 10/8/07, two Treestand Manufacturer Association (TMA) standards, Standard

Practice for Treestand Safety Devices (TMS 03-98 Rev G) and Standard Practice for Treestand Instructions (TMS 04-98 Rev F) were approved by TMA. The revised standards became effective on 1/1/08. The revisions include requirements that all TMA-approved treestands/harnesses incorporate a suspension relief device (to relieve harness tension on a hunter in the event of a fall). The standards were submitted to ASTM for approval. The ASTM F08.16 subcommittee met on 1/09/08,

and the two standards were submitted for balloting.

In 1/08, the Self Rescue Task Force submitted its findings to TMA and provided a summary to CPSC staff. In 8/08, CPSC staff posted on the CPSC Web site for public comment a draft letter with recommendations to the chairman of the Self Rescue Task Force. The draft letter reiterated the staff's position on self-rescue and provided updated incident data. The task force submitted several comments,

which were under review by CPSC staff at the end of the reporting period.

Next Action Monitor TMA and ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Turkey Fryers

Staff Contact Khanna, Rikki

Purpose To revise the ANSI Standard for Outdoor Cooking Specialty Gas Appliances (ANSI

Z21.89/CSA 1.18) to reduce the fire hazards associated with turkey fryers/boilers.

Activities There was no activity on this standard during the reporting period.

Next Action Monitor ANSI Technical Advisory Group (TAG) activities.

Product Vented Gas Appliances (CO Sensors)

Staff Contact Jordan, Ron

Purpose To revise the ANSI standards for gas appliances to include requirements to

address the carbon monoxide hazard. The standards include: Gas-Fired Central Furnaces (ANSI Z21.47), Gas-Fired Low Pressure Steam and Hot Water Boilers (ANSI Z21.13), Vented Gas-Fired Space Heating Appliances (ANSI Z21.86), and

Vented Gas Fireplace Heaters (ANSI Z21.88).

Activities In 2/08, contractor corrosion testing of furnaces equipped with CO sensors was

completed for staff analysis. The testing was conducted in accordance with the corrosion test provisions (Exhibit G) in the *Standard for Gas-Fired Central Furnaces* (ANSI Z21.47). The purpose of this testing was to expose the sensors to furnace operating conditions and accelerate the life of the sensors in order to assess sensor durability and longevity. This approach was in response to concerns raised by members of the ANSI Z21/83 Committee about the durability

and longevity of sensors if used within furnaces.

CPSC staff participated in a 7/23/08 conference call of the ANSI Z21.13 Boiler Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to discuss a proposal by a gas appliance industry group on action to take in light of a fatal CO incident in 2005 associated with side wall vented boilers. The TAG opted to participate in a cross-functional group,

which included furnace and water heater manufacturers.

Next Action Complete staff analysis of test results; monitor ANSI subcommittee activities.

Product Window Guards

Staff Contact Brown, Sarah

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Specifications for Window Fall Prevention Devices

with Emergency Escape (Egress) Release Mechanism (ASTM F2090) and the ASTM Standard Safety Specification for Window Fall Preventions Devices for Non-Emergency Escape (Egress) and Rescue (Ingress) Windows (ASTM F2006) to

include specifications for window opening control devices.

Activities CPSC staff participated in several meetings to discuss revisions to the standards

to include provisions for window opening control devices. CPSC staff provided anthropometric data for children and adults to aid in the development of specifications which would allow egress but prevent children from falling.

In 2/08, a ballot with revisions to ASTM F2090 was sent to subcommittee members

for review. In 6/08, revisions to ASTM F2006 were balloted. CPSC staff participated in a 7/21/08 Web conference to discuss negative ballots. Revisions were made to address the negatives, and the revised standards were sent to the

F15 Main Committee for balloting.

Next Action Monitor ASTM subcommittee activities.

Product Youth (Folding) Chairs

Staff Contact Hackett, Patty

Purpose To revise the ASTM Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Children's

Folding Chairs (ASTM F2613-07) to reduce the hazards associated with these

products.

Activities CPSC staff participated in a 3/31/08 subcommittee meeting on folding chairs. The

subcommittee considered the addition of a static load requirement for children's

chairs.

Next Action Participate in ASTM subcommittee meeting in 10/08.